

Big Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee (BVAC)

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

BVAC Members:

Lassen County BVAC – Aaron Albaugh, Board Representative; Jeff Hemphill, Alt. Board Representative; Kevin Mitchell, Public Representative; Duane Conner, Public Representative
Modoc County BVAC – Geri Byrne, Board Representative; Ned Coe, Alt. Board Representative; Jimmy Nunn, Public Representative; John Ohm, Public Representative

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

4:00 PM

Adin Community Center
605 Highway 299
Adin, CA 96006

BVAC Convene in Special Session.

Present: Committee Members: Albaugh, Coe, Mitchell, and Nunn.

Absent: Committee Member: Byrne, Conner, and Ohm

Also in attendance: BVAC staff Gaylon Norwood
BVAC staff Tiffany Martinez
BVAC Recorder Brooke Suarez
Facilitator Judie Talbott

BVAC Chairman Albaugh called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Flag Salute: Chairman Albaugh requested David Lile lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

General Update by Secretary: Gaylon Norwood talked about changing the future public meeting date from December to January. Staff wants to have Chapter 6 near completion prior to moving on to the chapters that have more public input.

Matters Initiated by Committee Members: Chairman Albaugh stated that the committee has had no response to the GSP extension letter written to Governor Newsom.

Correspondence (unrelated to a specific agenda item): None

Approval of Minutes (September 24, 2020) –

A motion was made by Representative Nunn to approve BVAC meeting minutes from September 24, 2020 with changes to Subject 2's reference to the Modoc Water Master. The motion was seconded by Representative Coe. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Albaugh, Coe, Mitchell, Nunn

SUBJECT #1:

Introduction of text for Public Draft Chapter 6 (*Water Budget*) of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Receive report from the BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.

Laura Snell from the UC Cooperative Extension in Modoc County presented the initial introduction to Chapter 6. A slide presentation was used, Exhibit A. She talked about confining layers in groundwater aquifers and how they can affect the recharge rate. Confining layers within the basin are mostly made up of clay. She also introduced the two model types (numerical and spreadsheet) for used for water budgeting.

David Fairman continued by stating that he used the spreadsheet model in the water budget he was presenting. Water budgeting is a required element of the GSP and it is used to gain a better understanding of the basin. Modeling is more precise with more information. D. Fairman detailed how the current numbers in the water budget were derived. He requested improvement of the data by putting information he was requesting on a map he provided.

Chairman Albaugh stated that a lot of assumptions and estimates were being made in the water budget that was presented.

Gaylon Norwood presented changes that will be made to Chapter 6 in the handout Comment Matrix spreadsheet (Exhibit B).

Further discussion was held regarding the water sources outside the basin. The committee wanted to be sure the water sources outside the basin were included in the water budget inflow numbers. D. Fairman also suggested it would be more beneficial to get other agencies involved to make them aware of the type on information that they could possibly supply that could be useful to the GSP.

Public Comment: Julie Rectin had a question on the calculations used in the water budget. David Fairman said he would have to get back to her with the answer.

Other questions and comments from unidentified call in listeners:

- Are the Silva Flat water rights split with Dixie Valley? The answer was no.
- Science does have to use assumptions and then be improved with actual data.
- DWR said committee can partner with agencies outside the basin to improve groundwater conditions.

SUBJECT #2:

Introduction of Revised Draft Chapter 5 (*Groundwater Conditions*) of the (GSP).

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Receive reports from the BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Accept and “set aside” Revised Draft Chapter 5 for future inclusion in Draft GSP.

Gaylon Norwood said that all comments were reviewed and adjusted in the GSP as needed. The Chapter 5 Comment Matrix referenced the changes (Exhibit B). It was also mentioned that the GSP should contain a glossary.

Chairman Albaugh requested additional changes to Chapter 5.

A motion was made by Representative Coe to “set aside” Chapter 5 with changes and come back to them in the future. The motion was seconded by Representative Nunn. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Albaugh, Coe, Mitchell, Nunn

Public Comment: None

SUBJECT #3

Introduction and discuss potential stream gage locations on the Pitt River for the Big Valley Groundwater Basin

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Receive reports from the BVAC Secretary, Staff, and/or Consultant.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Give recommendation on the proposed stream gage locations.

Tiffany Martinez presented information on the proposed Pitt River stream gages (Exhibit C); why they are needed, possible locations, and what factors into a good location. The Modoc grant provides funding for four gages. T. Martinez is only recommending the installation of two gages due to the long-term cost of monitoring and calibrating them. The committee and DWR are to go to the possible sites prior to any installation.

A motion was made by Representative Coe for staff to move forward and investigate two locations for gages on the Pitt River and the permitting process. The motion was seconded by Representative Nunn. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Albaugh, Coe, Mitchell, Nunn

Public Comment: None

Matters Initiated by the General Public (regarding subjects not on the agenda): None

Additional discussion was held on the public meeting and how to draw in more involvement from the community. Possible date for the meeting was between January 18, 2021 and January 22, 2021

Establish next meeting date: December 2, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Place to be determined.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Albaugh adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm.